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No. LXV.

POLITICAL HISTORY

OF

THE STATE OF JEYPORE.

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POLITICAL HISTORY

OF

THE STATE OF JEYPORE.

BY

COLONEL J. C. BROOKE,

LATE POLITICAL AGENT, JEYPORE.

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POLITICAL HISTORY

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THE STATE OF JEYPORE,

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY OF JEYPORE AND SHEKHAWATTEE.

JEYPORE, including SHEKHAWATTEE, lies between N. Lat. 25°40′ and 27°40′ and between E. Long. 75°8′ and 77°20′. It is bounded in the North by BEEKANEER, the British district of HISSAR and PUTTEEALAH; on the East, by ULWAR and BHURTPOOR; on the South, by KEROWLEE, GWALIOR, BOONDEE, TONK, MEYWAR and AJMEER; and on the West, by KISHENGURH, MARWAR and BEEKANEER. It is about 150 miles in length, and 140 in breadth, with an area of about 14,500 square miles.

The aspect of the country is very diversified. The centre is an elevated table land, from 1,400 to 1,600 feet above the level of the sea. The highest part of this Table Land intersects the country from S. W. to N. E. from near the Sambhur Lake, where the main Arabukee range loses its character of an unbroken chain of hills, to Tourawuttee and Khetree hills, which rise abrupt and bold, out of the sandy plain, at their feet, sometimes, as at Pouk, attaining height of 2,000 feet above it. This elevated belt forms the watershed of the country, and is the natural barrier of the desert tracts of Shekhawattee, Beekaneer, &c., to the north, so that; dividing them from the fertile plains of Jeypore, to the south. The boisterous the Jeypore side of the line, water is every where near the surface, not so on the Shekhawattee side, the further we leave the range, the more scarce water recedes; and this, notwithstanding that the slope of the country, excepting east is in the same direction, showing that the sand itself travels to the south-ward with the further to the north-west that we go. Where there is an opening in the intersecting line of hills, the sand is driven into the territories. Bei[illegible] monsoon the hot season by the high winds, and buries many south-eastern boun[illegible]eral square miles of country. The same effect is observable, though not to the same extent, at Jeypore itself, but from a different cause. Here it is generally to be stated at fro[illegible] of Jeypore itself, but from a different cause. Here it may be stated that many square miles of country are buried in consequence of a local peculiarity in the manner of forming the drifts, which has caused an accumulation at three places. They are curious miniature deserts of themselves, but no crops of tobacco, cotton, wheat, &c. are covered with locks of sand constantly shift about in them, on occasion of every gale, and do not seem to extend beyond certain limits. Numerous seeds, of area, Along the Ulwur border, smaller ranges of hills run North cultivated available, the extremity of one of which Jeypore is situated. These [illegible] data are rainy, ersecting range at Khetree, and where the two meet, a gra[illegible] in the

cal disturbance has taken place, the granite and quartz of the Arabukee bursting through and upheaving the sandstones and clay states of the other ranges, exposing the alum shales, and the rich veins of copper ores, cobalts and nickels, which they contain. The precipitous crown of the fort of Khetree is of sandstone, lifted up by granite, and other primitive rocks, of which the rest of the hill consists. This fort is 1,200 feet above the town at its base, and is about half a mile long, by a quarter of a mile in width. There is abundance of water at the top for a population of about 600 souls, and the sandstone crest varies from 30 feet to 400 feet in thickness. Its edge is every where perpendicular, though a good deal denuded in places.

The triangular portion of country bounded by the intersecting range, and the Jeypore range, and a base line running west from Jeypore, encloses an elevated *plateau* of the height already described, 1,500 to 1600 feet. From the base line of the triangle, the country slopes very gradually to the south-east, towards the Dayee and Bunass rivers, and is exceedingly rich and fertile. Only a few isolated hills appear above the plain, which has a firm retentive soil, capable of growing opium, sugarcane, &c., and is covered with flourishing villages, which are owned mostly by members of the numerous clan of Kungarot Rajpoots, one of the twelve Kotrees of the Cuchwahas.

The range of hills running North and South, which sinks into the plain at Jeypore, is composed of highly crystallized sandstone. It again appears about 40 miles south at Toda, and continues to Rajmahal on the Bunass river. The latter place has long been celebrated for the loveli-ess of its scenery. As the range approaches the river, it forks into o, one fork exhibiting a perpendicular wall, only a few feet thick, but 0 feet high, of light opal-grey glistering nucacceous rock, and the r a similar wall of rich rose-colored crystallized sandstone, the two about three miles apart. The river, which advances in a large m perpendicular to the direction of the ranges, has forced rrow opening for itself through them. The abrupt wall of at each opening is cut to a great depth, by the boiling surgin , and has thus added the charm of deep dark pools and rushi lled with mahseer, trout, and mullet, to the wild scen The hills on either side of the stream are crowned with old forts with their zig-zag approaches meandering thro which covers them, whilst the grand old palace of the anc f Rajmahal, in pretty fair preservation, notwithstand ne, and the modern flourishing village, both nestling at s on the verge of the stream, give life and character

is only 1,000 feet above the sea, Jeypore being 1,512 f of a line joining the two places, the country is m equally fruitful, as that to the west. The river Bun us course through it, and after turning south from nerally northern course, falls into the Chambul at rn extremity of Kerowlee. As it approaches the Chumb ses through a wild and hilly country, where the forests d cultivation interdicted to add to the difficulties of a he two much vaunted fortresses of Runtumbhore a both belonging to Jeypore, and both regarded as impregnal

by the ignorant populations in their neighbourhood. They are table-lands on hills with naturally scarped sides.

The Eastern portion of Jeypore has many ranges of low hills in it, and near the Kerowlee border, is much intersected with ravines. The hills are a continuation of the Ulwur ranges, and nearly all like them tend north and south. The tract of country enclosed by the bend of the Bunass can bear comparison with the most fertile portions of India. The soil is a rich alluvial loam; any number of tanks might be constructed in it for the purposes of irrigation, and the river Bunass is also capable, at no great cost, of being bunded and utilized.

The country to the extreme east, towards Hindown, is sandy, but fertile. The whole of these tracts grow much cotton and opium, and are well suited for tobacco and sugarcane. In former times, the latter crop must have been very extensively cultivated, judging from the number of old stone sugar mills, which the traveller meets at the entrance of every village, and which attest the ancient wealth and prosperity of this part of the country.

To the east of Jeypore, the country is low. From Jeypore to Agra, as the traveller enters the range of hills close to the City on the east, he commences at once to descend a rather steep incline, and as he emerges from them, he finds he has descended from three to four hundred feet in about two miles. Journeying on, he falls in with the Bangunga River, and following its course pretty closely, he enters with it the Bhurtpore territory, the elevation of which is only 700 feet above the sea. The soil of the country he has passed through he will have found generally a rich, firm loam, but in a few places loose and sandy.

The climate of Jeypore is highly salubrious. Being elevated and sandy, there are few places where water can lodge, so that malarious fevers are almost unknown. In the cold weather, the climate, especially in Shekhawalten, is bitterly cold, hoar frost frequently remaining on the ground in the shade till nearly mid-day. The hot winds in the north blow with great fury, but the sand does not retain the heat, so that the nights are pleasant, and the mornings very cool. Towards the southern and eastern portions of the country, the winds are not so boisterous or fiery; but neither are the nights or mornings so cool. The rains are generally plentiful throughout the territory, excepting Shekhawattee, where they are more precarious. The part to the south-east of the line intersecting Jeypore and Shekhawattee is seldom afflicted with the periodical famines which visit the neighbouring territories. Being on the verge of the influence of the south-western and south-eastern monsoons, it receives rain from both; and if one fails, the other is generally bountiful. The average annual fall at Jeypore itself may be stated at from 22 to 28 inches.

With regard to the agriculture of the country, there are no crops peculiar to Jeypore itself. In the south eastern portion, cotton, tobacco, opium, and sugarcane are grown, and large tracts are covered with barley, wheat, urhur, rape, til, linseed, and other oleaginous seeds, and with gram. It is impossible to give any estimate of the cultivated area, in comparison with the uncultivated, in a country where no data are available. Many tracts, moreover, are covered with cultivation in the rainy season, which the European eye has no chance of seeing.

It is now necessary to return to the north-western side of the intersecting range, or Shekhawattee. It has an area of about 4,000 square miles, and, as already observed, slopes towards the north-west. Near the eastern portion of it runs the Katuree river, which receives the waters drained from the lofty border range. It flows, during heavy rains only, with great impetuosity, and in a stream generally one or two miles broad. It tosses its sandy bed into huge waves, being most dangerous to cross, from the rapidity of its current, and the great number of its shifting quicksands. After a course through the length of Shekhawattee, looking as though it promised to swell into a mighty river, it gradually diminishes in volume, till it is entirely lost in the sands at Sankhoo, just as it enters the Beekaneer territory.

Shekhawattee is not an agricultural country. The land yields only one crop in the year, and even this sometime fails. The country is a mass of waving sand-hills covered with accacia, and the "Phog," a succulent plant without leaves, about three or four feet high, the flowers of which are eaten by the people, whilst the stalks afford excellent forage for camels, and the roots, swelling to an enormous size in the loose sand, make the best description of charcoal, and furnish an inexhaustible supply of fuel. The principal crops are jowar, bajra, moong, and moth, which replaces the gram of the firmer soils. The jowar and bajra are sown just before the first fall of rain, and the moong and moth in July and August. The sand hills are ploughed up after the accacia trees have been lopped, with very deep ploughs, in which camels are yoked, and the grain is put into the soil. As the camel walks comparatively fast, and two ploughings are sufficient, an extensive tract of country is thus speedily put under grain. The rest of the country is a luxuriant crop of rich grass. Should the season prove favorable, the produce is so large, that, with the wasteful habits of a rude population, much of the crop is left on the ground, to be grazed off by the cattle. Good seasons, however, are rare; light rains being insufficient to bring the crops forward, or to prevent the sand from flying, whilst by too heavy rain, the crops are liable to be buried by the subsidence or flow of the sand. Melons are extensively planted in the bed of the Khaturee river. Little wheat, or barley, is cultivated perhaps not more in each village than a single field near a well, for the sake of green food for the Thakoor's horses.

The wells are very, rare, and the water in them at too great a depth to admit of any extensive irrigation. The cost of digging a well is enormous, ranging from five to eight thousand rupees. It has to be sunk an enormous depth, and as the water, when reached, does not enter by springs, but by filtration through the sand, the body of the well, to be of any use, must be sufficiently large to act as a reservoir. In addition to this, there is a danger of coming upon a very loose stratum of sand, which continues to pour in like water, as it is being scooped out. When this occurs, the well has to be abandoned; and near towns and villages, one always sees a number of masonry cylinders above the ground, showing the abortive attempts made before a successful issue has been attained. When a well has been successfully finished, it is a source of great profit, as the cattle from many neighbouring villages will pay for the water at so much a head per month. In dry seasons, the cattle are kept in the neighbourhood, and the value of the

village grazing lands is also thereby enhanced. It follows, of course, from what has been said, that horned cattle are not numerous in Shekhawattee.

The effect of the small number of wells is to cause a congregation of the population in their neighbourhood, so that the character of the population consists in residing in towns or large villages at long distances apart. Where a bed of "kunkur" has been come upon, a handsome town has been formed. The "kunkur" in Shekhawattee is not found in nodules, but in beds of stiff snowy white clay, highly retentive of moisture. From these beds clean squares are cut out, like ashlar masonry blocks, and allowed to dry. The same clay is burnt for the cement, and the result is a durable and snowy white wall, which, in that clear dry climate, retains its colour unchanged for years. Many of these walls are gaudily painted on the outside, but some very tastefully so, and these paintings also appear to last for an indefinite period.

The imposing aspect of the mansions in the towns, notwithstanding the gaudy character of the decorations, sensibly strikes a stranger, who little expects to meet such handsome cities immediately adjoining the sandy desert. They owe their prosperity to British rule, being the homes of the Marwaree merchants, who have accumulated their wealth by trade through their gomashtahs or agents at the Presidency Towns of Bombay and Calcutta. This they spend in their desert homes in profuse, but rude and ill-directed display. The towns have been regularly laid out, with straight, broad streets crossing one another at right angles. As the larger edifices are built, the minor traders and poorer inhabitants retire into the suburbs. Thus every large town has the central portion handsome and imposing, and the suburbs mean, and composed principally of grass hovels. The principal towns in Shekhawattee are Ramgurh, which has doubled itself in the last 50 years, and contains about 50 of the wealthiest Marwaree bankers in India. Its population is about 20,000. Luchmungurh, population 15,000; Seekur, 15,000; Futtechpore, 50,000; Bissao, 20,000; Mandawa, 10,000; Newulgurh 10,000; Jhoonjnoo, the capital of Shekhawattee, and held jointly by all the principal chiefs and the head of the Native Government, has about 20,000 inhabitants. These numbers appear large, but it should be recollected that four-fifths of the population is congregated in these large towns, which are generally about 20 miles apart, and between them will scarcely be found a hamlet deserving the name of village.

The houses in the hamlets and villages form a strange contrast to the wealthy appearance of the towns. They are circular structures of grass on a few sticks, surrounded with lofty hedges of dried thorns, used as pens for cattle and sheep, to which fresh additions are being constantly added, partly to bind the whole together and prevent its being blown bodily away, and partly to screen the eyes of men and animals from the fine particles of drifting sand.

In many parts of the Jeypore territory the water is brackish. There are several natural lakes which owe their saltness to the soil, but in none of them is the amount of salt in suspension sufficiently great to make the collecting of it a source of profit, with the exception of the Sambhur Lake, where the manufacture of salt is carried on on a

large scale for the supply of the North Western Provinces and Bundlecund, which almost entirely depend upon it.

The Sambhur Lake is situated on the borders of Jeypore and Marwar. In the rainy season it is about 24 miles long by eight miles broad; and so shallow, that a man can wade across it nearly every where. The deepest part of the Lake is towards its south-eastern corner, near, the town of Sambhur, opposite to which, at the hottest season, the lake contracts to a thick, black, muddy pool, about two miles long and one mile broad.

The Lake, with the town of Sambhur and some 60 villages attached, was owned formerly by the States of Jeypore and Marwar in equal shares. First one State, and then the other, taking advantage of any temporary weakness in its neighbour, appropriated the outlying villages, till only twelve, besides Sambhur, remained in joint possession. Of the villages appropriated, Marwar took possession of Nowah and Goodah on the borders of the Lake itself, and opened marts in them for thesale of salt. The amount manufactured at these places must be, however, limited, from the decided tendency of the Lake to flow, as it evaporates, towards its deepest part at Sambhur, which is not a little assisted by the north-west winds. To prevent this flow as much as possible, a barrier of stakes and fascines is thrown by the Marwar authorities across the Lake every year, opposite to Nowah, which partially contracts this and allows the manufacture of salt.

The salt is collected in beds. A place where the water is about a foot and a half deep is chosen, and an embankment, high enough to let the miry sand solidify into a firm rampart, is thrown round a square of about three hundred yards either side, which is further protected with walls of strong 4-inch thick stakes, and interlacing hurdles to protect the embankment from the waves and wind, which might destroy it, and would interfere with the crystallization. The interior of the enclosure is again sub-divided into beds, about 20 feet long and 10 broad, but with their embankments a little lower and smaller than the main embankment. Twigs of the feathery "furas" tree are thrown into the beds, and as the water evaporates, the salt is deposited on them in beautiful crystals. The twigs are then cleared; a further supply of water from the lake is filled into the beds, for a repetition of the process, so long as the season permits. The enclosures and beds last about three years, when they require renewal. At Sambhur there are about 16 enclosures for making salt. Impure salt, which effloresces on the ground, is also collected, but it is not valuable.

The amount of salt produced at Sambhur is about 900,000 maunds, or 34,000 tons, yearly. It is a curious question whence this salt is produced, which can allow so large a yearly abstraction. No salt rivers flow into the lake, and the wells in the immediate neighbourhood of the lake, both at Nowah on the northern shore, and at Sambhur, on the south-eastern corner, are perfectly sweet. Nor are there any hills in the neighbourhood containing rock salt. It must be formed in the small portion of the Lake itself, which does not dry either from salt springs, or from a bed of rock salt, which is bare at that particular spot and approaches the surface at no other. No one has examined this po in consequence of the treacherous nature of the soil, which is decomposed by

the salt into a black quagmire, ready to engluph any person who approaches its margin.

The salt is calculated by borahs, each borah weighing 37 maunds, British. The yearly produce is about 24,000 borahs, or 888,000 maunds, in all. Its price on the spot is Rs. 16 a borah, or a little less than 8 annas a maund, yielding, therefore, some four lakhs of rupees a year. What is extracted at Nowah and Goodah is independent of this.

Besides salt, Jeypore possesses rich mines of copper ore towards Khetree, as well as of alum, iron, and cobalt. The copper ore is rich, but all the operations for its extraction and smelting of the rudest and most primitive description. The mines themselves are mere burrows in the hills, following the richest portions of the viens, and without any regard to communication. As the richest ores are below the water level in the mines, the greatest difficulty is experienced in baling out the water by hand, for no other means are employed. In one mine, which descends about 300 feet, at an inclination of 60° into the hill, some 70 people are required for this purpose alone. The consequence is, that many of the best mines have been abandoned, and the miners, being thriftless and poor, frequently confine themselves to digging out stuff, which has been previously neglected. It is not possible to say accurately what the percentage of copper in any mine is. The best now extracted contains about 12 per cent., but the average yield is not above 9 per cent. The miners assert that whenever a mine is cleared and baled out, the yield of the lower veins is as much as 20 to 25 per cent.

The ore is first separated from the rocks with which it is found; and after being very finely pounded, is roasted in a cowdung fire. It is then smelted in a circular furnace, about two feet high and a foot in diameter, built up with pieces of slag and clay. Three bellows, worked by hand, play upon the ore, and the operation of smelting is completed in about 12 hours. The ore is in a cake at the bottom of the furnace, which is knocked down each day, and rebuilt again for the succeeding blast. The refining of the ore is done in much the same manner, excepting that the air plays more directly on the surface of the metal. After this the metal is run into bars, and taken to the mint.

The water in many of the mines is rich in sulphate of copper and alum, from the alum shale, which superlies the rock, in which the copper ore is found. The whole is boiled down, and the copper sulphate separates, crystallized in a cake, which is refined by another boiling. The alum which remains in solution is precipitated by nitrate of potash.

In the Bagor Hill, near Khetree, and overlooking the Khetree Fort, cobalt is found in thin layers between the veins of copper ore. It is exported as it comes from the hill, and is employed extensively in enamelling, being exported for that purpose to Delhi and Hydrabad in the Deccan, as well as sent to Jeypore. Copper ore is also found at Singhana, about eight miles from Khetree, and in the same low range of hills, which connect the two places.

In the limestone ranges near Jeypore, on the Ulwur border, a coarse white marble is quarried, much used for ornamental building purposes. The finest marble employed in the richest work, in the Taj at Agra, the Motee Musjid, &c., is the produce of Mukrana in Marwar,

about 20 miles west of the Sambhur Lake, whence it is brought to Jeypore to be sculptured. The Mukrana stone is unaffected by the atmosphere, and has a finer grain than the marble from the Jeypore quarries, which becomes yellow, by exposure, in course of time. A coarse black marble has lately been found in the southern part of Kot Pootlee, a pergunnah of Khetree, which is now becoming extensively worked.

In the neighbourhood of Rajmahal, large quantities of carbuncles are dug up, but they are dark in color, and wanting in brilliancy. Turquoises are also said to have been found in large numbers at the northern extremity of the range, at Todah, near Tonk; but only the tradition remains; of the spot whence they were extracted nothing is known.

Any estimate of the population of the Jeypore territory can only be very roughly made. By Tod, the population of Shekhawattee is estimated at 80 inhabitants to the square mile, and, considering the size of the towns, this is not very excessive. If we take a large town of say 20,000 inhabitants at every 20 miles over the surface, it would give a population of 50 to the square mile, excluding the villages and hamlets; and as there are tracts without towns of that size, the latter calculation of 50 to the square mile would be safer for Shekhawattee, or a total of 250,000 inhabitants. If the rest of the territory were put down at 150 to the square mile (a very moderate estimate), we should have a population of 1,500,000 for the rest of the country; or 1¾ millions for the whole.

The population of the towns in Shekhawattee has already been alluded to, but that of the capital, Jeypore, should not be passed ower, as an elaborate census of it was taken between 1858 and 1861; in which every house was enumerated, the names of the owners, their trades, their families, male and female, servants, &c. The city was found to contain nearly 40,000 houses within the walls. In about 1,000 cases, however, of the houses of Thakoors, priests, &c., no returns were furnished. The census did not include the suburbs, which may be taken at about 10,000 more, which would give about 50,000 houses, or a population of 200,000 for the city itself and suburbs. The town is laid out on a regular plan, the main streets intersecting at right angles and being 110 feet broad. The secondary streets interseeting the blocks, made by the great streets, are 55 feet broad, and the minor ones 27½ feet. There are six great blocks in two rows of three each, one of which, the centre of the second row, is given up to the palace, and behind this again are the lakes. At the end of each of the main streets are the gates, six in number, handsome, lofty masonry structures, exactly similar to one another. The walls round the city are lofty, of masonry and crenellated, but without ramparts, and not intended for guns, or to resist artillery, the real defence against an invading force being the detached forts and the hill forts which surround the place. In the main streets, the shops are all similar, being of white pucka masonry with colonnaded verandahs, and the whole city bears the impress of the genuis of the soveriegn who founded it.

The population in the settled part of Jeypore does not differ from that of the rest of Rajpootana; but there are peculiarities in Shekhawattee, which are deserving of notice. The whole of this district is owned by Rajpoot Thakoors, the descendants of Shekhjee, the grandson of

Oodey Kurrun, the 12th Maha Rajah of Jeypore, who conquered Shekhawattee from the "Khaem Khanees," Mussulmen descendants of apostatized Chohan Rajpoots, to whom the country formerly belonged, but who were allowed to hold their estates by the Emperors of Delhi as the reward of their apostacy. The Shekhawats eventually coalesced with them, so far as to give in to many of the Mussulmen prejudices. The shrines of Mahomedan saints are equally reverenced as those of Hindoo divinities, the Mahomedan confession of faith is said at the birth of their children, and wild hog's flesh, which the Rajpoot elsewhere loves so much, is forsworn in Shekhawatee. The ownership of the land resting with the Shekhawut, the Khaem Khanees get their subsistence, either by plunder, or by seeking for service abroad as cavalry soldiers, and they have always proved themselves brave and faithful, and free from all prejudice. Large numbers are in our service, not only in the Bengal Irregular Cavalry, but also in the Bombay corps, and the Nizam's contingent, whilst some 5,000 are said to have been retained for the Nizam himself by Salar Jung. One of the most pleasing reminiscences of a visit to a Khaem Khanee village in Shekhawattee, is the number of old Irregular Cavalry troopers of all ranks wearing their medals, who greet one. There is not a recruiting ground for Cavalry in India at all equal to Shekhawattee.

Since the time of Shekhjee, the Shekhawats have increased vastly in numbers. To break their strength, the Jeypore Government, about a century ago, took advantage of some dispute amongst them, to introduce the custom of an equal division of real estate amongst the male children, on the death of a parent. Seekur and Khetree are the only estates which have escaped this ruinous sub-division, the first by the destruction of the minor branches, who sought to enforce partition; and the latter by the want of issue, beyond a single son in each reign. The extraordinary way in which sub-division has been carried out has still further complicated matters, each village, each field, and each homestead being parcelled out. At Sooltana, a large village between Singhana and Jhoonjnoo, though one man is called "Thakoor," he is only the holder of the part of the estate properly belonging to his position.

Another race in Shekhawattee, especially numerous in Khetree and the North Eastern corner of the territory, is the Meena. The influence of the Meenas at Jeypore, who guard the citadel and treasury, has already been alluded to; but their ramifications extend throughout the country. They are inferior in courage and daring to the Meenas of the Khirar, in Boondee, and Meywar; but surpass them in cunning and organization for distant plundering expeditions. Filled as Shekhawattee is with poor Rajpoots and Khaem Khanees, who can seldom eke out a subsistence from the barren soil, it has no want of leaders to arrange and head a foray. Meena scouts are sent to all the principal centres of trade, who transmit notice of the despatch of the invoices of merchandize. A Rajpoot or Khaem Khanee generally leads the raid, and, according to the plan concerted, the rendezvous is fixed as near as possible to the time and place where the robbery is to be committed. The merchants keep also Meenas in pay, to inform them of such expeditions, and write to their correspondents to delay or hasten the despatch of the goods. A constant game of this kind is being played between the merchants and the plunderers, which throws a species of black mail

into the hands of the more influential Rajpoots and Khaem Khanees for the safe transit of the goods, and as of course the competition is great, the tax levied on the merchant is slight, in comparison to what he would have to pay as customs when travelling an equal distance through a native State. The generality of highway robberies takes place when arrangments of this kind have not been made. In Khetree, where Shekhawats and Khaem Khanees do not exist, the Meenas arrange their own plundering expeditions with the Meenas of Ulwur and Shahjehanpore in the British district, and proceed to long distances, their chief plundering grounds being the roads between Indore and Bombay, and Hydrabad in the Deccan, where they waylay caravans of opium, cloth, and bullion.

The judicial courts of Jeypore are not separated from the Civil, but no sentence, beyond short terms of imprisonment, is passed without a review of the proceedings by the Maha Rajah and his Council. For the city, a City Magistrate is appointed, who has control over the inferior judicial courts, and the Police and Meena guards in the city and suburbs only; the district Police being under a Superintendent, with 17 zillahdars, one to each zillah or district. Each zillahdar is supplied with a contingent of horse and foot soldiers, and resident in the district of the Police of which he has charge. With respect to cases in Thakoor's villages, he is accompanied by one of the Thakoor's principal men to enforce his orders. He apprehends criminals only who are forwarded for trial to Jeypore.

The revenue of Jeypore may be stated at from 35 to 38 lakhs of rupees per annum. During the period of the management of the territory by British officers, whilst the Maha Rajah was a minor, the revenue was about three or four lakhs less. The land revenue, the criterion of the prosperity of the country, has largely increased, but so much depends on the temporary grants of estates to rances and dependants, that implicit reliance is not to be placed on returns, without alienations and resumptions being also taken into consideration. The grant of Kote Kassim by the British Government to Jeypore, on account of services rendered by the State during the mutinies, added ½ lakh to the land revenue, and during the year 1860, no less than a lakh yearly fell in from the death of the Queen mother. On the other hand, wives have had to be provided with estates, and dependants rewarded; but during the tenure of the office of minister by the late Pundit Sheodeen, there is no doubt that his good management increased the land revenue considerably, giving confidence to the ryots by granting them longer leases, and abolishing the yearly farming system, to which they were previously subjected.

In stating 35 to 38 lakhs as the revenue of Jeypore, it should be remarked that this is the "khalsa," or "crown" revenue alone. Some of the richest parts of the territory are held by chiefs, or have been given in grants for service, endowment of temples, Brahmins, &c. The estates not crown property, are.—

1st.—*Tributary.* Being estates (not included in religious grants) received from the Sovereign by those who perform no service, but who pay only quit-rent. The exclusive clan of Rajawut, being branches of the Maharaja's own family, are in this number.

2*nd.*—*Allodial.* Estates conquered by the ancestors of the owner, or possessed by them anterior to the conquest of the country by the reigning family, or not granted by the State, or who have voluntarily sought the protection of Jeypore. This class includes the Shekhawuts generally, with Seekur (4 lakhs) Khetree (2½ lakhs) Ooniara (1½ lakhs), &c.

These two classes hold estates yielding 15 lakhs yearly; and, as will be seen by the table of revenue, pay to the State Rs. 3,50,000 yearly.

3*rd.*—*Jagheerdars,* performing service only for their fiefs, but paying no rent. The value of their estates is set down by themselves at Rs. 28,00,000, which, however, is said to be much underestimated.

4*th.*—*Enams and Religious Grants.*—This class is very large, in consequence of the reputed sanctity of the City of Jeypore, and the large gifts made at various times to the temples, as well as to Civil and Military Officers, Court favorites, &c. These grants amount to about Rs. 28,00,000, the estimate under this head being, however, less trustworthy than the others, which are more readily calculated.

The total income of the country may be therefore stated as follows:—

	Rupees.
Crown Revenue, say	36,00,000
Tributaries and Allods	15,00,000
Jagheerdars	28,00,000
Military, religious, and other grants	28,00,000
TOTAL Rs.	1,07,00,000

or a little more than a million sterling. A reference to the tables of revenue will show considerable sums under the head of Police. These include fines for robberies and the sale of articles recovered from theives and unclaimed. Succession duty consists of nuzzurs and fines paid on succession to estates and property, and is in accordance with native feeling. At Jeypore it should be called more properly "Legacy" duty, very little being taken when a son succeeds his father, but about 8 per cent. when a distant relative is adopted. It is presented as nuzzur, and taken in recognition of right of inheritance, the amount being settled by previous understanding.

The expenditure may be put down at 35 lakhs of rupees, and is not subject to any great variation; the most gratifying item of the whole being the large sum devoted to roads and improvements, as well as on education. The personal expenses of the Maharajah are very small, as he is exceedingly frugal, and has few wants.

The expenses in education are confined chiefly to the maintenance of the Maharajah's school, originally established by Major (now Major General) J. Ludlow, to whom Jeypore owes so much. Two branch schools are attached to it. It is divided into English, Oordoo, Hindee and Persian Departments, and for its support, villages yielding Rs. 8,000 a year have been assigned. The number of scholars is about 500, of whom about one-fourth learn English.

In addition to the College, Jeypore contains 113 self-supporting schools, educating 2,680 boys. The largest school has 50 boys in it, the charge for whom is only 10 annas a month each, and this appears to be the highest charge. A medical school was also established at Jeypore, which has been lately abolished. Through the exertions of the medical officer in charge of the duties at the agency, instruction was given to the city midwives, and the Maharajah supported the institution liberally. Its success has been very great, as several women have passed out of it well instructed in the obstetric art.

The Army of Jeypore is not large, considering the large extent of country to be guarded, and that it has to perform all the Police duties at the same time. It consists of 10 Regiments of Foot, each 600 strong; and 4,000 Nagas, men ill armed and without discipline; besides a small body of 700 Cavalry, divided into 7 Rissalahs, and 4,250 Jagheerdar horse. There are besides 1,500 men employed in guarding the several forts within the territory. The Regiments of Infantry are composed of the same classes as filled the late Bengal Army. The men are badly appointed, and neither the old or unfit men are weeded out of them.

The Nagas are a body of religious mendicants, who are trustworthy and true to the State. They receive the small pay of Rs. 2 a man per month, and Re. 1 for each child, averaging Rs. 3 per fighting man. In the roll, children are counted as well as adults. They are armed with matchlocks, and will not undergo any discipline. During the mutinies, they were the only body of men really true to the State, and but for them, the so-called Regulars and Artillery would have rebelled. They are a useful and inexpensive body, and not dangerous.

The Jagheerdar Horse are supplied by the Thakoors, according to the terms on which they hold their estates. The quotas they supply are based on continuous service for the whole year, with one horse per Rs. 1,000 of rent. Many of the estates are much more valuable now than they were when the holders first received them; whilst a few have deteriorated, so that the latter service seems to be performed by one horseman for every Rs. 500 of rent. Allowance must be made for the natural disinclination of the Thakoors to state the true value of their properties; but taking the estimate as correct, it would represent the average rent for which service is performed, as about one horseman for every Rs. 700 of rent.

The administration of Jeypore errs on the side of mildness and the absence of vigor. The population of the city, and the administration of the country, seeks only ease and to avoid anything that is likely to give trouble. All are bound on pleasure and amusement. Corruption and peculation are rife, for there is great temptation, and at the same time an absence of all dread of heavy punishment. There is no want of power to exhibit vigor on occasion, but there is a want of inclination to do anything harsh or arbitrary. There is much procrastination in the transaction of public business, but there is a desire to administer justice; and, taking all things into consideration, the Jeypore State, in enlightenment and public spirit, is far in advance of the other principal States of Rajpootana.

CHAPTER II.

GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE MAHARAJAHS OF JEYPORE.

The reigning family of Jeypore is of the Cuchwaha tribe of Rajpoots, one of the thirty-six Royal races of India. The Cuchwahas claim descent from Cush, the second son of Rama, King of Kashula, whose capital was Ajoodhya (the modern Fyzabad), in Oude. Cush migrated first to Rohtas, on the Soane River, and after the lapse of several generations, his descendants, in A.D. 295, established themselves at *Nurwur*, in Central India. The family appears to have remained at Nurwur for thirty-three generations, till DHOLA RAE, the son of Sora, founded the present State of Jeypore, or Amber, in A.D. 967.

At that period, the country south of the site of the present city of Jeypore, and called DHOONDAR, was occupied either by petty Rajpoot sovereignties, or by large and comparatively powerful communities of Meenas, who appear to have been of sufficient importance to have had their own separate kings, holding their own courts. All these petty principalities, however, whether Rajpoot or Meena, acknowledged the supremacy of the kings of Delhi, where the Hindoo kings of the Tuar race then ruled. Dhola Rae was driven from Nurwur when an infant, and hospitably sheltered by the Meena King of Khogong, whom he afterwards treacherously slew, and whose kingdom he usurped; another of the many instances of how, in ancient times, the way to sovereignty was paved by barbarity and ingratitude. Dhola Rae married the daughter of the neighbouring Rajpoot Chief of Deosa (40 miles east of Jeypore) and he also obtained possession of that district, as well as of the neighbouring one of Ramgurh, and thus laid the foundations of a considerable State. He was eventually killed in a fight with the Meenas.

KANKUL, a posthumous son of Dhola Rae, succeeded him. Kankul conquered the southern portion of the territory, and in A.D. 1037, either he, or his son Maidul Rao (who, however, did not ascend the throne, as stated in Tod's Rajathan) seized Amber in the hills, about six miles north of the present capital of Jeypore, from the Soosawut Meenas, after a long and protracted struggle. The king of the Soosawut Meenas was also the head of the Meenas confederation, and the seat of power was consequently transferred to Amber, which now became the capital of the country, and gave the name to the State. The Meenas were constrained to submit to a power which held their capital in its hands, but, with the view of conciliating them, and preventing any further rebellions by this wild, and at that time powerful, race, Kankul made them extraordinary concessions. Twelve villages in the immediate neighbourhood of the capital were granted to them. They only were to guard the royal treasury and the citadel, whilst the chowkeydaree of the city was entrusted to them, and they were permitted to levy small cesses upon articles and laden cattle passing in and out of the gates. All these concessions are enjoyed by the Soosawut Meenas to this day.

Kankul's successors, HUNOOJEE and JANURDEOJEE (and not Kontul as mentioned by Tod) still further consolidated the sovereignty so

acquired, and brought the Meenas throughout the whole territory of Amber into complete subjection.

PUJOON, the next Chief, was of sufficient importance to obtain in marriage the sister of Pirthee Raj, the Chohan Emperor of Delhi. He commanded one of the divisions of Pirthee Raj's Army, with which he defeated Sahiboodeen in the Khyber Pass, and pursued him towards Ghuznee. He also conquered Mahobah in Bundelcund, of which he was appointed Governor.

From Pujoon, the seventh in descent is OODEYKURRUN, whose son Baloojee, leaving his father's house, obtained the town and district of AMRITSUR. Oodeykurrun's grandson, *Shekhjee*, was the founder of the Shekhawut communities, which now cover so large a surface of the Jeypore Territory, and among his descendants are comprised the Ulwur and Ooniara families, as well as those of Seekur, Khetree, and Bissao.

The next sovereign deserving of notice is PIRTHEE RAJ, the fifth in descent from Oodeykurrun. He had no less than seventeen sons, twelve of whom arrived at manhood. He provided estates out of his territories for each of them, and thus gave rise to the traditional saying of the twelve kotrees of the Cuchwahas, though now the number of kotrees is greater than twelve. Some estates held by the descendants of former sovereigns have been advanced, the rank of kotrees whilst in a few instances original kotrees themselves have become extinct.

BAHAR MULL was the successor of Pirthee Raj. Tod supposes that Bheem succeeded Pirthee Raj, and that Bheem was succeeded by his son Aiskurrun, a parricide. Bheem, however, was not the eldest son of Pirthee Raj, but the holder of one of the kotrees, and his son Aiskurrun, having been adopted to the guddee of Nurwur, the kotree became extinct. Bahar Mull paid homage to the Mahomedan power, and received from the European Humayoon the munsub of 5,000, as Rajah of Amber. His son and successor, BHUGWUNTDASS, was the friend of the Emperor Akber, and the first Rajpoot Sovereign who allied himself by marriage with the Mahomedan power. His daughter was espoused by Jehangeer, and the fruit of the marriage was the unfortunate Khoosroo.

MAUN SINGH, the nephew and successor of Bhugwuntdass, was one of the most brilliant characters in the Military History of India. He conquered for the Emperor the whole of Orissa, and was invested consecutively with the Governments of Bengal, Behar, and the Deccan. He made Assam tributary to the Empire, and as Viceroy of Cabul, maintained tranquillity there.

JUGGUT SINGH (Tod says Rao Bhao Singh and another son of Maun Singh) succeeded his father, and after him, his son MAHA SINGH. Jhoojhar Singh, another son of Juggut Singh received Jhellye, Eesurdah, &c. Maha Singh was followed on the throne by another celebrated military character, MIRZA RAJAH JEY SINGH, commonly called by his imperial title of "*Mirza Rajah*," who received the munsub of 6,000, and performed great services for the empire; but, becoming too powerful for a subject, was made away with by the Emperor, through the hands of Keerut Singh, who had been promised by the Emperor his support to supplant his elder brother on the throne. The feeling of the country,

however, was too strong against the parricide, to allow such a measure to be carried out, and Keerut Singh was obliged to content himself with Kamah, now in the Bhurtpoor Territory, and which his descendants enjoy to this day; but the parricidal act of their ancestor has ever excluded them from any chance of succeeding to the Jeypore throne.

RAM SINGH, KISHEN SINGH, and BISHEN SINGH successively followed, and then came the celebrated JEY SINGH II., A.D. 1699, commonly called SOWAE JEY SINGH, a title given by the Emperors of Delhi, and which his descendants adopt to this day. The word means "one and a quarter," and is expressive of the great superiority of the bearer to all his contemporaries.

It would take too much space to enter into even a brief account of the deeds of this truly illustrious prince, in a sketch intended to show merely the genealogy of the family. As the founder in A.D. 1728, of the city of Jeypore, to which place he transferred the seat of government from Amber, his name would have been handed down to posterity, but he was equally remarkable for his intellectual capacity, and for his liberal patronage of science and art, as for his engineering and architectural skill. He was a highly skilled mathematician, and a pains-taking and accurate astronomical observer. The Observatory of Jeypore, constructed after his own plans and designs, and those he erected at Delhi, Oojein, and Benares, for contemporaneous observations, exhibit a wonderful amount of skill, and an advanced knowledge. With these he was enabled to correct the tables of "De la Hire," and to leave, as a lasting monument of his abilities and industry, the astronomical tables of the stars, collected by himself, and called the "Teej Mahomedshahi."

The account of the succession of the next princes, EESUREE SINGH and MADHO SINGH, exhibits an attempt to set aside the rights of primogeniture, which brought great disasters both on Jeypore and Oodeypore. The Jeypore and Jodhpore Courts had renewed with Oodeypore the tri-partite treaty for common defence against the Mahomedan power. To obtain the privilege of re-marrying with the Oodeypore family, which they had forfeited by giving daughters to the emperors, the Maharajahs of Jeypore and Jodhpore agreed, on occasion of such alliances between them and Oodeypore, that the issue by the Oodeypore Princess was to succeed to the thrones of their States, to the prejudice of any elder sons born by other wives. Rajah Jey Sing, to consolidate the agreement, had received in marriage a daughter of the Oodeypore Sovereign, his eldest son Eesuree Singh having already reached man's estate. To counteract, however, the evil effects of the injustice that the birth of a son by the Oodeypore Princess might occasion to Eesuree Singh, he caused the latter at the same time to marry a daughter of the Suloombur Chief, the principal noble of Oodeypore, and the leader of its forces. Madho Singh was the offspring of Jey Singh by the Oodeypore Princess. On Jey Singh's death, *Eesuree Singh* succeeded to the throne, but the Maha Ranah of Oodeypore supported the pretensions of his nephew, *Madho Singh*. The Oodeypore army, under its hereditary leader, the Rao of Suloombur (whose interests, by the marriage of his daughter with Eesuree Singh, were directly opposed to those of his sovereign) marched with a force under Scindiah, to the attack of Jeypore. The Meywar army purposely fled, and both it and Scindiah suffered a defeat. The

Maha Ranah, highly indignant at the turn affairs had taken by the conduct of his nobles, broke from them and entertained the troops of Holkar, at an enormous sacrifice of money and land, with the view of deposing Eesuree Singh. That weak and debauched prince was vanquished by Holkar, and to save himself from further disgrace, voluntarily took poison. He was succeeded by Madho Singh, who, after this, reigned 17 years.

PIRTHEE SINGH II, a minor, succeeded Madho Singh. The guardianship was entrusted to the mother of his younger brother, Pertab. She was a very depraved character; so much so, that the chiefs absented themselves from Court, and retired to their estates. Pirthee Singh died before Pertab was nine years of age, under suspicion of having been poisoned by the Queen Regent, with the view of obtaining the throne for her son Pertab. Pirthee Singh left a son, Maun Singh, who, to save his life, was removed secretly, and sent to Gwalior, at which Court he passed his life. As opportunities to succession to Jeypore offered themselves on two or three subsequent occasions, Maun Singh was passed over, in consequence of his want of intellect and debased character.

PERTAB SINGH was placed on the throne by the queen's mother, and her ministers. During his minority, Machery, (Ulwur) secured its independance, and Jeypore became impoverished, from the constant demands of the Mahrattas, who then overawed the country, and the payments to whom diminished the reserves in the treasury.

JUGGUT SINGH succeeded Pertab Singh in A.D. 1803. This prince's life is a mere narrative of debauchery, and libertinism. He died, regretted by none, in A. D. 1818. He left no children, and as it was necessary that an adoption should at once be made, and there was no one so nearly connected, as to ensure an undisputed succession, an intrigue was got up, for placing on the throne, Mohun Singh, the Ex-Prince of Nurwur, who had been driven from his own principality by Scindiah. The plot was arranged by the head Nazir or eunuch, a man of much influence in most Rajpoot Courts, but it was opposed by the principal queens and most of the chiefs. The boy Mohun Singh, a descendant of Aiskurran, the son of Bheem, one of the twelve sons of Pirthee Raj was of a distant branch of the family, and his adoption would have been opposed to the usages of the country, and to the rights of Jhellye and other nearer branches of the family. These consequently commenced arming to oust the pretender, when fortunately one of the queens (Bhutteeaneejee) declared her pregnancy, and it was proclaimed at the same time, that she had entered on her eighth month. A grand council of Ranees and Thakooranees from the principal families was held, who confirmed the fact, and when on the 25th April 1819, her full time was completed, a son was born, who succeeded, unopposed to the throne, while the Nurwur boy sank into obscurity.

JEY SINGH III, this son, survived only 17½ years, and died in A. D. 1835, leaving a son, the present Maharajah SEWAE RAM SINGH, who was born in A.D. 1833, and was only 17 months old at the time of his father's death. He has at present no offspring, nor has he adopted a successor.

The succession to the throne of Jeypore is vested in the families of the "Rajawuts." Though none are very nearly related to the present rule, who is the head of the clan, yet they are sufficiently numerous

to afford an extensive choice. The title of "Rajawut" is taken by all the descendants of Pirthee Raj in the direct line, in contradistinction to the descendants of his other sons, who became the heads of kotrees; though these also sometimes assume the name of "Rajawut." According to Rajpoot custom, the supercession of an elder branch by a junior, generally, though not invariably, excludes the descendants of the elder from inheritance, and a member of the elder cannot usually be adopted by one of the younger branches. An instance of this kind occurred among the successors of Pirthee Raj, which threw out the elder branches of the family. Bhugwunt Dass, the third in succession from Pirthee Raj, having during his lifetime, adopted Maun Singh, the son of his youngest brother Juggut Singh, to the prejudice of the rights of Juggut Singh's elder brothers, Soor Singh and Madho Singh, the claims of the latter and their descendants became as it were vitiated, by reason of their seniority to the reigning line. The descendants of Soor Singh and Madho Singh consequently form a separate fréreage to the descendants of Rajah Maun Singh, who, in addition, raised his own branch to greater consideration by his character and military exploits, which reflected on his posterity. His descendants (Maun Singhote) became therefore the presumptive heirs to the throne of Jeypore, and from the failure of later collaterals have continued so to this day.

From Rajah Maun Singh, to the present ruler, Maha Rajah Ram Singh, are fifteen generations, and the only collateral descendant's branch off either from Maun Singh himself or from his son Juggut Singh, with the sole exception of Keery Singh, the founder of the Kamah branch, who killed his father, the Maha Rajah Jey Singh, and whose descendants consequently are excluded from succession.

The claim for adoption to the throne of Jeypore by Hindoo Law, as interpreted in Rajasthan, would rest—in the first place, with the Jhellye family, the descendants of Juggut Singh, the son of Maun Singh; 2nd, with the collaterals of Maun Singh, consisting of Chundlae, Himmut Singhote, Dholeo and Paharle; and 3rd, with the descendants of Soor Singh, Madho Singh, and Abhey Raj, who from being senior would be very much more removed, whilst the descendants of the sons of Pirthee Raj would be still more distant.

CHAPTER III.

SKETCH OF THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF JEYPORE SINCE THE DATE OF THE TREATY WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

The Political History of Jeypore, since its connection with the British Government, is more interesting and instructive, than that of any other State in Rajpootana. The proximity of the State to our own possessions, our exaggerated ideas of its military power, and the minority of its ruler, which followed soon after the signature of the treaty, and which threw the reins of Government into the hands of the Queen mother, interested the British Government in its welfare, and caused it to become the field of experimental attempts at improvement in its internal administration, which eventually worked a full conviction in the minds of those who made them of the impolicy of well-intentioned, but ill-judged interference. To this cause should also be added (our ignorance,) at that early period of our operations, of the relations subsisting between the component parts of a Rajpoot State, which we supposed had progressed beyond the feudal epoch, and had verged, or required little at our hands to cause it to verge, towards a constitutional monarchy. In these early experiments, our relations with the Court were conducted by some of the ablest officers in India, such as Sir David Ochterlony, Lord Metcalfe, Sir John Low, and Sir George Clerk, whose subsequent careers have shed a lustre on the service to which they belonged. It was only the great abilities, the great discretion and judgment displayed by these eminent men, which prevented the failure from being more signally conspicuous. Foreseeing the probable issue of events, as they developed themselves, they averted by their skill and judicious efforts, the evils which might otherwise have resulted from too earnest a persistence in a wrong policy.

The first official connection of Jeypore with the British Government dates as far back as A.D. 1803, when a treaty was concluded with the State by Lord Lake. One of the early fruits of this treaty was the surrender to us of Vizier Ali, which, though stigmatized by a celebrated historian as casting a slur on the honor of Jeypore, was a proof of the fidelity of the State to its engagements, after such had been deliberately formed, and of its earnest desire to cultivate our alliance. Unhappily, both for our good name, and for the prosperity of Jeypore, the policy of that period little regarded the obligations of good faith, and the treaty was abolished in A. D. 1805, leaving the country a prey to the Mahrattas, who devastated it remorselessly, in revenge for its having contracted a British alliance. It was at this time that the Jeypore Agent at the Camp of Lord Lake observed, that this was the first time since the English Government had been established in India, that it had been known to make its faith subservient to its convenience.

When, therefore, subsequently the Marquis of Hastings desired to enter into those engagements, which were to bind the various Rajpoot States in a common compact with the British Government, it cannot be a matter of surprise that the Court of Jeypore held aloof for a time from a power, that had so unceremoniously discarded her a little before.

Her reserve, however, was finally overcome, and a treaty of ten articles was concluded on the 2nd April 1818, between Sir Charles Metcalfe on the part of the British Government, and Rawul Byree Saul, on that of the State of Jeypore.

The provisions of this treaty consist of assistance with troops, according to means; and acknowledgment of supremacy and subordinate co-operation on the part of Jeypore; besides the payment of tribute, which was to be raised gradually, in the sixth year of the alliance, to eight lakhs of rupees a year, until the revenues of the country should exceed forty lakhs of rupees, when five-sixteenths of the excess were to be paid, in addition to the above-mentioned eight lakhs. On the part of the British Government perpetual friendship and alliance, protection from foreign enemies, abstinence from internal interference, and a favorable consideration for the prosperity and advantage of the Jeypore State, were guaranteed.

At the time the treaty was concluded, Jeypore was under the rule of the weak and dissolute Juggut Singh, whose follies and debaucheries had sunk the country from the high position she had formerly held. Living entirely in his zenanah, among those who pandered to his profligacies, the chief influence in the State fell into the hands of his dissolute associates, and the eunuchs of the female apartments. At his death, therefore, which occurred on the 21st December A. D. 1818, soon after the treaty was concluded, power was grasped by Nazir Mohun Ram, the head eunuch of the palace, an able and ambitious man, who declared that Juggut Singh before his death had adopted Mohun Singh, the son of the ex-Rajah of Nurwur, of the original stock, from which, eight centuries previously, the Rajahs of Jeypore had sprung; and during whose minority he anticipated the enjoyment of the delights of Government.

Supported by the palace party, who had every thing to gain from the ntinuance of the power of the Nazir, the young Mohun Singh was aced on the throne; and the great vassals were called on to tender eir allegiance. These, however, had mostly retired to their estates, ith the exception of Megh Singh, the Thakoor of Diggee, the princiil chief, though not the head, of the powerful clan of Kungarote, who ad joined with the Nazir in his unprincipled schemes. They all sent vasive replies; and prepared to join the Thakoor of Jhellye, the nearest of in to the deceased prince (with the exception of the excluded family of Kamah) in his claim to the throne.

As soon as Sir David Ochterlony became aware of the death of Juggut Singh, he sent his confidential moonshee to Jeypore, to watch the progress of events. The moonshee was easily persuaded to side with the Nazir, and the Resident, placing implicit reliance on his statements, recommended to Government the recognition of the Nurwur boy. A congratulatory letter was consequently sent by the Governor General, and the young Mohun Singh was formally seated on the throne, under the name of Maun Singh.

The Ranee, however, and particulary the Rahtore Ranee, the sister of the Sovereign of Marwar, were indignant at the disgrace about to be placed upon themselves, and the country, by the forced nomination of a child, under the tutelage of an eunuch. The great nobles were about to

raise the standard of rebellion, whilst the overbearing insolence of the Nazir's adherents estranged even the turbulent population of the city. At this juncture, one of the queens, the Bhutteeanjee Ranee of the late Juggut Singh, announced that she had entered into the eighth month of her pregnancy. The occurrence was hailed by all classes with joy, as it frustrated the wicked designs of the Nazir, and prevented the evils of civil war, and what the inhabitants of Jeypore then much dreaded, the chance of the British Government stepping in and appropriating the country, under the pretext of allaying strife. Many, however, still adhered to the Nazir, and many more were incredulous of the pregnancy of the Bhutteeanjee, the notification of which had been delayed so long. The great vassals consequently assembled, under the auspices of the Rawul Byree Saul, at the Palace in the hall of audience; and it was settled, that so important a matter, as the pregnancy, should be decided by a visit of the other widows of the late king, and of the wives of the principal Thakoors, to the pregnant Ranee, to ascertain the fact of the pregnancy, and its legitimacy; whilst all bound themselves to adhere to the decision come to. The deputation testified that the Ranee was pregnant; and all signed a paper, binding themselves to acknowledge the expected child as their sovereign, in case it proved to be a son.

On the 23rd April 1819, the boy, on whose existence so much depended, was ushered into the world; and Mohun Singh, notwithstanding the intrigues and protestations of the Nazir, was thrust into obscurity till his death, which occurred a few years afterwards. The Rawul, with Thakoor Bahadoor Singh of Jhellye, and Thakoor Kissen Singh of Choumoh, obtained the signatures of the Thakoors to a letter, addressed to the Resident, begging him to acknowledge, on the part of the British Government, the son of the Bhutteeanee Ranee, as the true heir to the Cuchwaha throne, and the legitimate offspring of Juggut Singh; with which request Sir David Ochterlony readily complied; and this acknowledgment by the paramount power, of the act of the principal chiefs and Ranees, at once calmed the country.

Sir David Ochterlony had heretofore conducted our relations with Jeypore, and appears to have resided at the capital, for many months together. As long as he was present, there was some check upon the irregularities, which broke out soon after his departure. Before the birth of the young Maharajah, the Rahtore Ranee had held the position of Pat Ranee or Chief Ranee; which by custom, she was now constrained to yield to the actual mother of the Rajah, who had reached the summit of her wishes, and gave loose to those vicious and debauched courses, which caused great dissatisfaction amongst all classes of the community, and were the origin of much discord and strife. The Rawul Byree Saul, the second Chief of the Nathawul Kotree, whose ancestors by their talents had raised themselves to be regarded the hereditary potails or advisers of the State, and who himself inherited the talents and capacity of his forefathers, had been appointed minister by the Queen mother, through the influence of the Resident. Though nominally head of the administration, he had little real power in his hands, and was obliged, with the object of maintaining his position, to consult the whims and fancies of the Queen mother. Towards the latter part of the year 1820, her disgraceful conduct caused an insurrection to break out in the city. Foujee